



Accredited Standards Committee X12 Convergence Initiatives

**SIMA Workshop on eBusiness Standards Reuse,
Convergence and Deployment**

NIST

May 29, 2003



ASC X12's Mission

Develop, and maintain
electronic data exchange standards
in X12 EDI, XML and UN/EDIFACT formats and
collaborate with industry organizations to build
best of breed standards to enhance business processes,
reduce costs and expand organizations' reach



ASC X12's Vision

Be the preferred US standards body
for cross-industry development & maintenance
of electronic data exchange standards;
define electronic business document content and
serve as a key player in international forums

Accredited by ANSI in 1979, ASC X12:

- Creates electronic data interchange (EDI) standards that support business needs and interacts with existing & emerging technology infrastructures
 - Over 300 transaction sets developed & implemented by 300,000+ companies worldwide
- Develops XML business message standards
- Administers a dynamic process that effectively creates, reviews, approves & maintains various syntaxes (X12, XML, UN/EDIFACT)

ASC X12 (*Cont.*):

- Offers a neutral environment for cross-industry standards harmonization & convergence
- Collaborates with industry organizations to build best of breed EDI standards in X12 & XML formats
- Works with international e-business standards development efforts

ASC X12 Subcommittees

representing a wide range of industry interests

- X12A Education Administration
- X12C Communications & Controls
- X12F Finance
- X12G Government
- X12H Materials Management
- X12I Transportation
- X12J Technical Assessment
- X12M Procurement & Distribution
- X12N Insurance
- P&P Policies & Procedures
- COTG Convergence & Outreach

Convergence & Outreach Task Group

Point of entry & outreach for groups developing XML specs for their industry

- Target groups like HR-XML, OASIS UBL, UCC and UN/CEFACT
- Work with the 100+ industry organizations inside ASC X12 to ensure their e-business standards requirements are met
 - AFP, AIAG, Coalition for Healthcare e-Standards, Defense Transportation E- Business Committee, HL7, MISMO, Regional EC User Groups, etc.
- All industry organizations are welcome to participate
Next meeting: June 1, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Nashville

ASC X12 MOUs

HR-XML

- MOU signed in Jan.
- Collaborating on data standards development in HR, Insurance, & Health Care Industries
- Initiating joint development in the benefits enrollment arena, e.g., an XML version of the 834

IFX Forum

- MOU signed in Feb.
- Collaborating on creating a common XML payment and remittance message, which could serve as an order to a financial institution to make a payment to a payee

Accomplishments that Foster Convergence

- X12's XML infrastructure including XML review procedures, Reference Model for XML Design using Context Inspired Component Architecture (CICA) & draft XML Design Rules
- A streamlined X12 EDI Code submission process and the Tool to support it, reducing the transaction cycle from 9 to 3-4 months
- The approval of an Intellectual Property Policy

About CICA

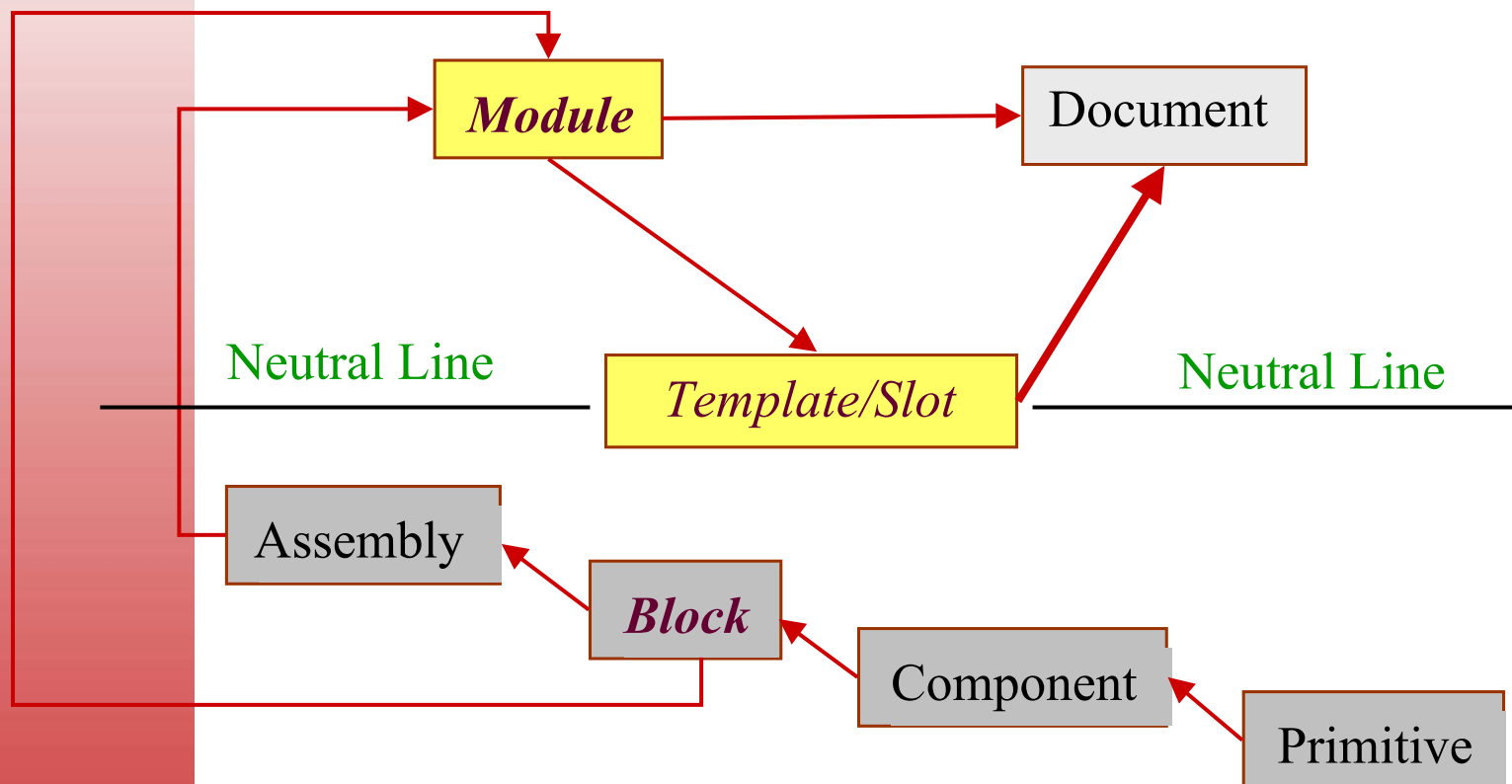
Methodology for building and interpreting e-business documents

- Guiding Principles
 - Align with UN/CEFACT, ebXML, W3C
 - Build on existing foundations & best practices
- Modularity, reusability, easy extension & customization
 - Defined structure with flexibility required by different business models
- Recommendations for XML syntax in design of schemas and instance documents

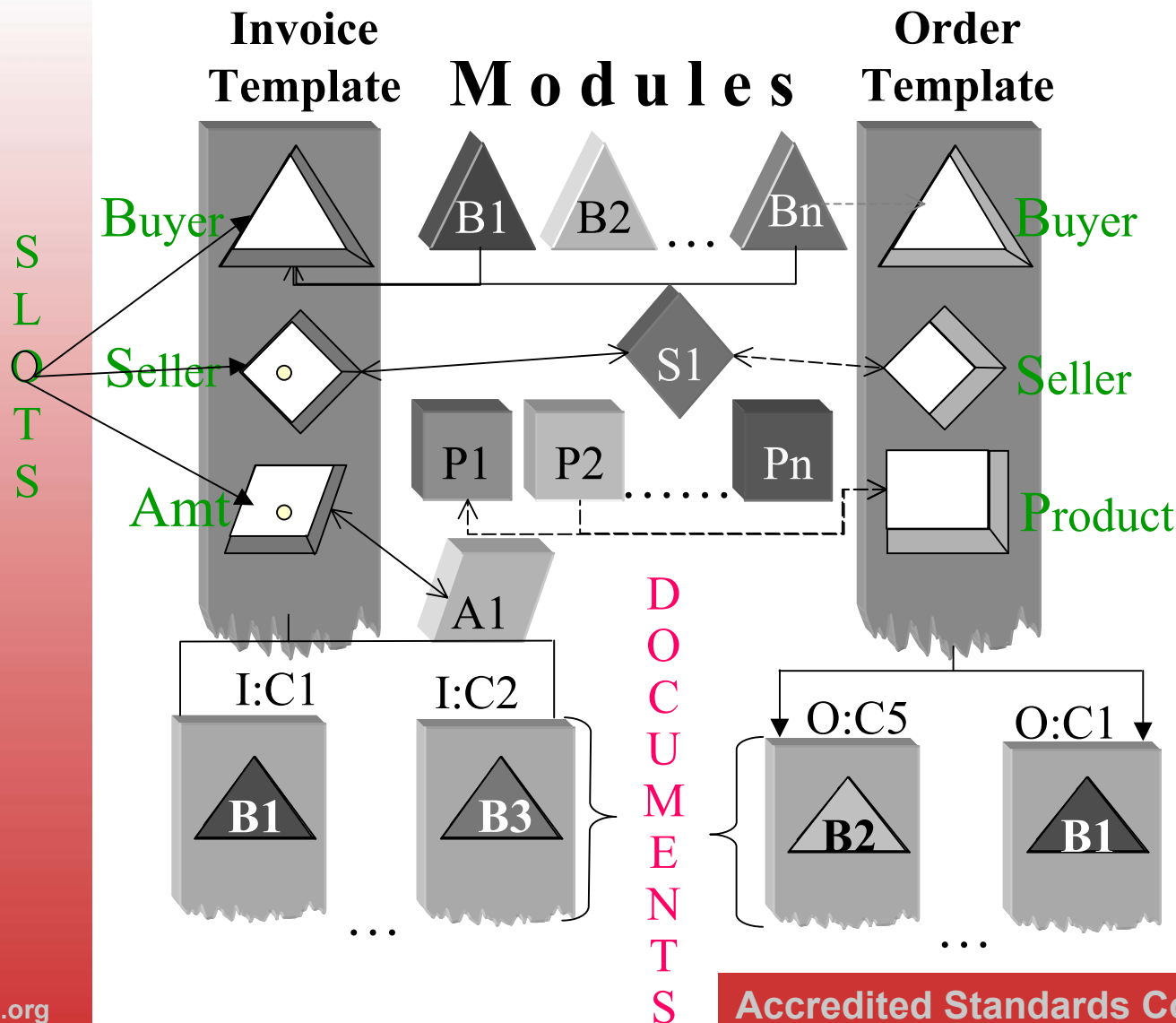
CICA Basics

- Seven discrete levels of granularity
 - 4 layers are designed to be semantically neutral (Components)
 - 3 layers are designed to be more specific to industry implementations (Context)
- Draws on ebXML core components
- Encourages reuse of data and promotes semantic interoperability

CICA Architecture Layers



CICA Architecture At Work



Gartner Report Praises CICA

Gartner predicts that by 2008, a majority of business transactions will be based on ASC X12's proposed XML architecture.

“Enterprises should understand CICA and expect vendors to support it no later than 2006.”

“Users should push their standards organizations to use the CICA framework when developing XML-based specifications.”

Key ASC X12 Initiatives for 2003

- Determine existing XML work & best practices to incorporate into X12 initiatives and work closely with UN/CEFACT
- Fine tune our XML business message infrastructure & procedures including an XML syntax document
- Make X12 EDI procedures analogous with new X12 XML procedures

ASC X12 Strategy for 2003

- ASC X12 XML standards will be developed using CICA & X12's XML design rules with intent to convert
- Achieve a consistent XML approach for users, X12 will collaborate with UN/CEFACT to develop:
 - Single message design architecture
 - XML schema syntax
 - XML design rules & guidelines
- Use UN/CEFACT core components when applicable, contribute additional components as created
- Harmonize ASC X12's XML business messages with UN/CEFACT's approach



*Many voices, one common message:
effective electronic business exchange*

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